

Patent Application No. 09/924,292

February 27, 2004

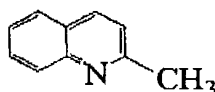
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Amendments to the Claims:

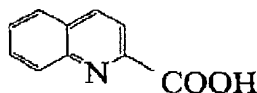
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified Application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented). A process for the microbial oxidation of the compound of Formula II



to the compound of Formula I



which comprises:

contacting said compound of Formula II with a microorganism capable of accomplishing the oxidation of the methyl group of the compound of Formula II to the carboxyl group of the compound of Formula I, and

incubating the resultant mixture to yield an amount of the compound of Formula I.

2. (Currently amended). The process as defined in claim 1 wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 9244, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 8688a, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 26269, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 8983, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 10028b, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 9245, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 36112, *Cunninghamella homothallica* ATCC No. 16161, *Alternaria solani* ATCC No. 11078, *Penicillium glabrum* ATCC No. 11080, *Diplodia gossypina* ATCC No. 20575, *Absidia repens* ATCC No. 14849, *Absidia repens* ATCC No. 74481, *Aspergillus tamarit* ATCC No. 16865, and *Glomerella lagenaria* ATCC No. 14724.

3. (Canceled).

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19. (Previously presented). The process as defined in claim 1 wherein said microorganism is an intact microorganism, and further comprising isolating said compound of Formula I by extraction of said mixture with an organic solvent, and subjecting said extraction to chromatography.